
DHS EMPLOYEES SHOW THEIR HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Mr. Kindle and the Central Office staff of DCFS wish to thank everyone for their generosity and willingness to participate in the annual DCFS Christmas project. The 2004 Foster Children's Holiday Bazaar raised \$9,415.65. This includes all proceeds from the Bazaar and donations. All of the funds were used to buy Christmas presents for children in our custody thus insuring them a very Merry Christmas.

DCFS is worked with all Areas to fund the purchase of gift cards for older children and bikes for children who did not receive them on their wish list for the Gingerbread Tree.

This does not represent all of the work given by many divisions at the local level to provide many DHS clients with a happier holiday.

Thanks again to all that participated!

HIPPA HAPPENINGS.....

We're approaching two years of HIPAA and during that time, we at DHS have had our trainings and our training updates and have no doubt heard of more than a few real and some imaginary HIPAA violations. In the past several months, some of the divisions have completed training updates. These will continue throughout 2005 until all divisions have received a training update. Some of you may be wondering why training is necessary. The reason is simple and may be

best understood in context. On November 5th, a federal judge in Seattle ruled on the first criminal conviction for a HIPAA violation by sentencing a laboratory technician to 16 months in prison and a fine of \$9,000 in restitution. This ruling makes it clear that whether we like it or not....whether we see it as a necessary protection of our own and our client's privacy rights or, as one DHS employee recently put it as "bureaucracy on steroids", one thing is for sure. HIPAA is not going away and its violation can have serious consequences for you and those around you.

If you have questions related to HIPAA, please feel free to call Jan Speed at 682-8764.

*Arkansas Human Services Association
60th Annual Conference
October 29th, 2004*



(John Kennedy and Family)

John Kennedy, Assistant Director of Field Operations (Division of County Operations), was selected as the **ASEA Employee of the Year** at the recent conference held at the North Little Rock Riverfront Wyndham Hotel. John possesses a wealth of knowledge and is an expert in administrative, personnel and program policies, which he has gained over his 33 years of service with the Arkansas Department of Human Services. **Christy Dean**, daughter of **Melissa Dean (DCO – Central Office)**, was the recipient of the **2004 Scholarship Award**. Ms. Dean's selection for the scholarship was based on her academic achievements, her school extra-curricular activities and her community service Christy is currently a freshman attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Congratulations to them both!

*Interdepartmental Relations Committee
33rd Annual Professional Assistants' Conference
November 4th, 2004*



(Brenda Jacobs)

Brenda Jacobs, Administrative Office Supervisor (Columbia County DHS), was selected as the **2004 Professional Assistant of the Year** at the recent IRC conference. The conference was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Financial Center Parkway. In addition to a framed certificate, Brenda received a certificate for a complementary night's lodging at the Embassy Suites and a \$100 Wal-Mart gift certificate. Brenda has worked with Columbia County DHS for six years. She is the direct supervisor of five clerical employees in addition to a Workforce Investment Act participant. In addition to her supervisory duties, she is the Junior LAN Administrator for the office. Brenda conducts the majority of interviews for those requesting assistance with needed medication, shelter needs, burnout victims and a multitude of other needs. With her busy work schedule, she still finds time to support her community. She is on the board of the Single Parent's Scholarship program and of Community Connections. **Melissa Neuhaus (White County DHS)** and **Vicky Walden (AR Dept. of Health)** were runners up for this prestigious award.

*Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS)
'Together We Can' Celebration & Training Conference*

The Together We Can (TWC) program celebrated its' 10th anniversary at the Airport Holiday Inn. The theme of the conference was "I Love To Tell The Story: 10 Years of TWC". The purpose of the conference was to honor the dedicated individuals that comprise the TWC teams. TWC is a multi-divisional program designed to provide family-centered services to support the family unit. Four key elements of services are provided to prevent removal of the child/children from the community in which the family resides. These elements are integrated, individualized, wrap-around, and community based.

DHS AROUND THE STATE

Independence Co. DHS



The **Independence Co. DHS** Office sponsored a children's gift project on November 5th, 2004. Members of ABATE (Arkansas Bikers Aimed Toward Education) made their annual 'toy run' to assist the project. DCO and DCFS employees helped Santa sort the toys following the toy run and bikers' parade. Gifts were provided for more than 700 children in Independence County in 2003. This annual project started in 1980.

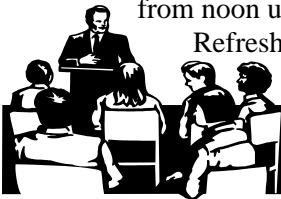


Ken Henson, a Life Skills Trainer at the Alexander Human Development Center won the \$500 prize donated by ASEA for completing the Health Risk Assessment. ***Congratulations, Ken!***



DCFS still has cookbooks available for sale. The books are \$7.00 each and proceeds are used to purchase gifts for foster children. For More information, contact Georganne Lewis at 682-8738

The **DHS Toastmasters Club** will be having an Open House on Wednesday, December 8th from noon until 1 p.m. in Donaghey Plaza West, 4th Floor Conference Room. Refreshments will be served. It will be a "find out about Toastmasters" event.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 17th - State Holiday

January 24th - 1:30 a.m. Earned Income Tax Credit Press Conference



Do you have something you'd like to share in the newsletter? Send e-mail to Julie.Munsell@arkansas.gov or Ingrid.Green@arkansas.gov. Send a fax to (501) 682-6836 or call (501) 682-8650.